Prince Edward Island

CANADA

Agriculture and Fisheries

2016

Guide for Beginning Farmers on Prince Edward Island

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So you want to be a farmer....

Farming is an ancient and noble profession, and one of Prince Edward Island's backbone industries. Agriculture and its related industries, like food processing, make a vital contribution to the province's economy, society, and culture. However, farming is not easy.

The Government of Prince Edward Island values the Island's farmers and appreciates the importance of attracting new people into the agriculture industry. The Future Farmer Program was established to support the entry of new farmers to the industry and improve the probability of new entrants establishing profitable and sustainable farm businesses.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has put together this *Guide for Beginning Farmers on Prince Edward Island* to help you access the services and information you need as you establish your farm.

To be a successful farmer, you need to think through your plans very carefully. It is important to write things down so that you can easily re-evaluate your plans and measure your progress. There are a number of planning steps that you should follow before getting started in farming. This guide will take you through those steps and direct you to additional sources of information on topics too complex to be covered in this document.

Call us or visit .....

The Agriculture Information Desk at the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is staffed by professionals who are interested in helping you achieve your goal of becoming a farmer.

For more information, contact the Agriculture Information Desk at 902-368-4145, 1-866-PEIFARM (734-3276) or visit the website www.peifarm.ca.

Step 1: Define your goals.

Why do you want to farm? Once you know that, you can determine what you want to produce and how you want to farm. People want to be farmers for many different reasons, including:

- a way of earning a living
- cultural ties to the land and/or the farming way of life
- a desire to increase household food security and self-reliance
- a way to supplement income from another job
- a combination of any of these reasons or other reasons

Most people have more than one reason for wanting to farm. For example, those who want to earn their main income from their farm will develop a different scale of enterprise than those who only want to supplement their income. Beginning farmers with small children will have different goals than retirees. Talk with someone with agricultural or business expertise about what you expect from farming or read some of the following resources before taking the next step. Agriculture Information Officers and Agriculture Commodity Specialists with the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries can assist you in defining your goals. (See the Appendix1 for contact details.)

Are you really sure that farming is for you?

If you have no farming experience, you should give serious consideration to spending at least a year working on different types of farms before investing your time, energy, and capital in a farm enterprise. This will help you decide what kind of farming suits your goals and interests. You may also decide that farming is not for you.

The book *You Can Farm: The Entrepreneur's Guide to Start and Succeed in a Farming Enterprise* by Joel Salatin is an excellent book for giving an overview of what you can expect from a farm lifestyle.

Resources include land, capital, infrastructure, equipment, and information. Make a list of what you already have and another list of what you think you still need to get started. If you have trouble completing this step, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries staff can provide you with assistance.

If you already have...

...**land**:

- How much area do you want to farm?
- Are there any zoning or municipal by-law restrictions that would restrict the type of farm enterprise you can develop?
- Are there any environmental considerations that would restrict the type of farm enterprise you can develop (e.g. proximity to neighbours, proximity to wetlands, etc.)?
- What kinds of crops and livestock are suited to the land? (This will depend on soil type and productivity, drainage, slope, climate, and location, i.e. market access.)

...**capital**:

- How much can you or are you willing to invest in your farm enterprise?
- What return on investment do you expect and how quickly do you expect to see it?

....**infrastructure**:

- What sort of infrastructure exists on your farm (e.g. wells, barns, sheds, fencing, etc.)?
- Is the existing infrastructure in a safe and useable state? If not, can it be repaired?

....**equipment**:

- What sort of equipment do you have (e.g. tractors, other farm machinery, chainsaw, machine and carpentry tools, computer, etc.)?
- Is the existing equipment in a safe and useable state? If not, can it be repaired?

....**information**:

- What do you know about farming?
- What do you know about marketing farm products?
- What do you know about farm legislation on Prince Edward Island?
- Do you know where to get additional information about the various aspects of farming on Prince Edward Island?

Step 2: Decide what you want to produce and how you want to go about doing it.

There are a wide variety of farms on Prince Edward Island. These include supply managed livestock, non-supply managed livestock, crop farms and farms producing specialty products. Supply management means the relevant commodity marketing board matches supply to demand by allocating production quotas to producers and setting the prices for the commodity. This ensures farmers a stable and adequate income and provides consumers with a high-quality and consistent supply of these commodities. However, the supply-managed commodities are heavily regulated and the most difficult commodities for new farmers to enter. Some of the commodities produced on Prince Edward Island can be categorized as follows:

- supply managed livestock commodities
  - dairy cows
  - poultry-meat chickens (broilers)
  - poultry-egg-laying chickens (layers)
- non-supply managed livestock
  - beef
  - swine
  - sheep
  - goat
- crop farms
  - potatoes
  - tree fruit - apples, plum, cherries, pears, and other tree fruits
  - small fruit - strawberries, blueberries, cranberries and raspberries
  - vegetables
  - field crops
  - wine grapes
- specialty products
  - bee - honey, pollination
  - fur - mink, fox, rabbit

Many farms fall into more than one category. In addition, within each category there are farms of different scale. A vegetable farm might be 100 acres and sell all its produce to a wholesaler or might be 2 acres and sell all its produce at a farmers' market.

Within each category, there are also a variety of production and marketing methods. You can raise beef cattle on pasture or feed them grain and silage in a

feedlot. You can have an apple orchard and sell all the apples to a retailer or sell them primarily through a u-pick.

Organic Farming

One category of production methods is organic farming, which restricts the use of synthetic inputs. Any of the above farm commodities can be certified organic.

Organic Industry Development Program

The Organic Industry Development Program is designed to provide assistance with projects that encourage growth in the organic sector and yield positive economic benefits to the Prince Edward Island agriculture industry.

The Organic Industry Development Program is comprised of three sub-programs:

- Increasing Market Competitiveness
- Specialized Equipment
- Certified Organic Land Conversion

For more information on organic certification, production and programing, contact the Organic Development Officer, Susan MacKinnon at 902-314-0825 or sdmackinnon@gov.pe.ca

Three additional sources of information about organic farming are;

- PEI Certified Organic Producers Cooperative (COPC) at 902-894-9999 or at their website at www.organicpei.com
- Atlantic Canada Organic Regional Network (ACORN) at 1-866-32-ACORN (22676), admin@acornorganic.org , or see their website: www.acornorganic.org
- Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) located at the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture in Bible Hill. You can contact OACC at 902-893-7256 or find information on their website: www.organicagcentre.ca

What you decide to grow, at what scale, and the production methods you choose to use depends on your goals, the amount of capital you have to invest, and how you plan to market your farm products. A summary of farm type and the resources required to establish these farms can be found in Appendix 2.

Understanding your Forest Land

Forests cover some 45% of Prince Edward Island and woodlands often make up a portion of many Island farms. Private forests play a vital role in our economy, environment and society. They provide many different traditional forest products such as fuelwood, pulpwood, and hardwood and softwood lumber. They also offer

opportunities in non-timber products such as maple syrup, Christmas trees, medicinals, decoratives, nature enjoyment, recreation and wildlife habitat. Hedgerows are an essential part of Prince Edward Island's landscape and provide many environmental benefits to land owners and Island society. However, in order to do their job, hedgerows should be efficiently designed, properly planted and well maintained.

The PEI Department of Communities, Land & Environment has developed a program which provides assistance to landowners who want to establish hedgerows and buffers for soil conservation, stream bank stabilization, and windbreaks for buildings and livestock. The program is open to both farmers and other land owners.

To learn more about successful hedgerow establishment and the benefits of hedgerows, visit www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/hedgerows or view publication *Farmstead Shelterbelts* at www.wbvecan.ca/anglais/images/shelterbelt_guide.pdf

For more information regarding Island forests contact the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division Information Officer, Ken Mayhew at 902-368-6450 or khmayhew@gov.pe.ca

Step 3: Think about adding value.

One way that farmers can increase their profits is by adding value to their farm produce through processing. You can turn milk into cheese, pork into sausages, wool into sweaters, or small fruit into jam. There are a number of small-scale processors of farm products throughout the province. This type of processing, especially of food products, may be subject to food safety regulations and food processing licenses.

For more information regarding food safety and food processing contact the Department of Health and Wellness, Environmental Health, 902-368-4790, toll free 1-800-958-6400 or envhealth@ihis.org

Product and Market Development Program

This program is designed to assist agricultural producers, agri-businesses and agri-processors seeking to expand their product base or markets. The program is focused on increasing competitiveness of Prince Edward Island's agriculture and agrifood sector by assisting with market intelligence, market exploratory activities, market delivery logistics, new product development and market readiness in new and emerging markets.

For more information regarding this program and on adding value to farm produce contact Agriculture Information Officer, Danny Doyle 902-940-0871 or dldoyle@gov.pe.ca .

Agri-Food Market Development Program

This program was established to increase the visibility, sale and consumption of Prince Edward Island produced agri-food products. There are three components to the program: signage/promotion, training, and new product development/season extension.

For more information regarding these programs and on adding value to farm produce contact Agriculture Information Officer, Carolyn Wood 902-368-4145 or cjwood@gov.pe.ca .

Step 4: Become familiar with some of the programs the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries provides to farmers.

The Future Farmer Program

This program encourages new Prince Edward Island farmers to develop successful commercial farm operations.

There are seven components to the program:

- Facilitating and Coaching Assistance by a Program Advisor
- Skills Assessment
- Business Planning
- Skills Development and Training
- Business Risk Management
- Understanding Analytical Laboratory Results
- Business Risk Management
- Interest Rebate Assistance

For more information about the Future Farmer Program contact the Agriculture Information Desk 902-368-4145 or peifarm.ca

Business Development Program

This Program will provide farmers skills training, business practices assessment and business planning assistance. The initiatives are designed to enhance the ability of farmers to respond to change and to facilitate the development of sound business practices.

Five programs are offered:

- **Agri-Skills**
  Funding is available to Prince Edward Island farm families for training, so that they will be able to increase the profitability of their farms, pro-actively manage risk and adopt technology.
- **Self-Assessment**
  Workshops and follow-up activities are offered to PEI farmers so that they can self-assess their current farm management practices and skills; build on the strengths they have identified; develop action plans, then implement sound business management practices and plans.
- **Planning**
  This program provides Prince Edward Island farmers with financial assistance for a variety of consulting services to address cost control, benchmarking, diversification, marketing, value-added enterprises, human resource planning, financing, development of strategic direction, risk management, succession or other challenges. In 2016, it is expected that there will be a move to an on-line version to replace the workshop.
- **Training and Organizational Development**
  Funding is available for group training which encourages farmers to investigate, understand and utilize improved business practices in their decision-making. Assistance is also available to farm organizations for strategic planning and executive training.
- **Benchmarking & Risk Management**
  Funding is available to organizations for projects which will build the capacity of farmers to better understand their financial situation, know their costs of production, benchmark their farm performance and to identify risk management strategies in their agricultural operations.

For more information regarding the Business Development Programs and eligibility requirements contact the Agriculture Information Desk 902-368-4145 or peifarm.ca

Assurance Systems Program

This program provides assistance to address risks related to humans, animals and plants. These risks may relate to, but are not limited to, on-farm and post-farm food safety, animal welfare, biosecurity, traceability, animal/plant health, emergency management, quality assurance, and surveillance. This program consists of two sub-programs: On-Farm Assurance and Post-Farm Assurance.
For more information about the Assurance Systems Program contact the Agri-Food Systems Coordinator, Shauna Mellish at 902-368-5456 or smmellish@gov.pe.ca.

Business Risk Management

The PEI Agricultural Insurance Corporation administers the following programs:

- AgriInsurance - provides insurance against production losses for specified perils (weather, pests, disease)
- AgriStability - provides financial support to farmers who experience declines of more than 30% of their average income from previous years
- AgriInvest - is a savings account for farmers which provides coverage for small income declines and allows for investments that help mitigate risks or improve market income

For more information regarding these programs contact the administration office of the PEI Agricultural Insurance Corporation 1-855-251-9695 or peiaic@gov.pe.ca

Forest Enhancement Program

The PEI Department of Communities, Land & Environment offers a number of programs and services to people who own forest lands on Prince Edward Island. The primary program for private land forests is the Forest Enhancement Program (FEP) (www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/FEP). The FEP is a cost-shared program. The first step is developing a forest management plan for your woodlands. This plan will help you gain a better understanding of your forest and its potential and limitations. It is prepared by a professional forest consultant who works with you to match your goals with the capabilities of your forest lands. The plan identifies and maps the different forest stands, sensitive environmental areas and locations suited to creating forest roads or trails. It also offers recommendations on appropriate management and harvest techniques for each forest area to help you meet your goals.

For more information contact the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division FEP Coordinator, Scott MacDonald 902-620-3179 or samacdonald@gov.pe.ca

Honey Bee Queen Replacement Project

The purpose of the Queen Replacement Program is to improve genetic resistance of PEI honey bees. Improved genetic resistance will position beekeepers to better withstand the introduction of honey bee tracheal mites (HBTM) with the ultimate goal of increasing pollination services to the blueberry sector by increasing colony numbers.

For information contact the Berry Crop Development Officer, Chris Jordan 902-314-0816 or cwjordan@gov.pe.ca

Step 5: Become familiar with some of the Services provided by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Agriculture Information

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries promotes a strong agriculture industry and provides services to farmers in the province.
For more information on these services, contact the Agriculture Information Desk 902-368-4145 or 1-866-PEIFARM (734-3276) or cjwood@gov.pe.ca

PEI Analytical Laboratories

The PEI Analytical Laboratories is a modern facility accredited by Standards Council of Canada to the ISO 17025 Standard. The lab provides the most up-to-date and accurate analyses on water, milk, soil, feed, and plant tissue. It also provides specialized tests such as seed germination, manure, greenhouse media and compost analyses along with a seasonal plant disease diagnostic service. The laboratory is located in West Royalty in the BioCommons Park at 23 Innovation Way, Charlottetown.
For more information about test packages and fees at the PEI Analytical Laboratories contact the lab at 902-620-3300 or www.gov.pe.ca/peial

More Information about services and programs...

A more comprehensive list of services and programs can be found on the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website at www.peifarm.ca.

Step 6: Getting ready to farm.

Land

If you do not already own or have access to land you may wish to contact a local realtor in your area to find farms for sale or lease, advertise in the local newspaper or online, or contact commodity associations. If you decide to purchase land, especially undeveloped land, ensure there are no zoning, municipal bylaws or water course buffer zone limitations that will restrict use of the land for agricultural purposes.
A non-resident person or corporation, or a resident corporation must make application to the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (IRAC), if the

person or corporation intends to have an aggregate land holding in excess of 5 acres, or having a shore frontage in excess of 165 feet.
Information and applications regarding the *PEI Lands Protection Act* can be found at http://www.irac.pe.ca/land .
More information about zoning and municipal bylaws can be found on the Municipal Affairs office website www.gov.pe.ca/mapp/municipalaffairs .
For more information about Agricultural Buffer Zone Regulations view this fact sheet www.gov.pe.ca/environment/buffer-zones .
For more information about water course buffer zone limitations contact the Soil Conservation Specialist, Gwen Vessey 902-314-0786 or gtvessey@gov.pe.ca.

Infrastructure
Farm building related information can be found on the Canada Plan Service website www.cps.gov.on.ca/english/frameindex.htm

Equipment
There are a number of agricultural equipment dealers in Prince Edward Island that sell new and used equipment. A significant quantity of used farm machinery is sold through online classified sites, such as, www.kijiji.ca , www.usedpei.com, www.ironsearch.com and www.agriculturesearch.com, or in the classifieds in farm periodicals (see list below). There are a number of farm supply stores spread across the province that sell animal feed and agricultural equipment, such as fencing equipment and animal feeders.

Farm-related publications that you may be interested in:

- *Island Farmer* a bi-monthly newspaper published on Prince Edward Island, covering all sectors of the agriculture industry. Contact: 1-800-806-5443, www.peicanada.com/island_farmer

- *Atlantic Farm Focus* a monthly farm newspaper that reports on issues of relevance to farmers in the four Atlantic Provinces. Contact: 1-800-717-4442 ext. 2525 or www.atlanticfarmfocus.ca

- *Rural Delivery* a farm and country journal published 10 times a year. The same publisher also produces *Atlantic Beef and Sheep*, *Atlantic Forest*, and *Atlantic Horse and Pony*. Contact: 902-354-5411 or www.countrymagazines.com

- *Small Farm Canada* a magazine that promotes small-scale farming as a legitimate and viable endeavor. It is published 6 times a year. Contact: 1-866-260-7985 or www.smallfarmcanada.ca

- Many of the provincial and national commodity associations produce newsletters or magazines that they send to their members. Some of these publications are free of charge to everyone, some are free to paid members, and some require a paid subscription. Contact the individual commodity associations for more information (see Appendix 1 for contact details)

Labour

Finding skilled and unskilled farm workers can be a major concern for farmers. The PEI Agriculture Sector Council offers an employment service for both farmers and farm labours. Employers can receive help with recruitment of farm workers, assistance in the development of job ads, job descriptions and career profiles and access to a database of individuals interested in working in agriculture. Contact the PEI Agriculture Sector Council 902-892-1091 or www.peiagsc.ca

Training

Throughout the year the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries organizes and/or sponsors various training sessions and commodity workshops. To access dates and information on training sessions call the Agriculture Information Desk or visit the website www.peifarm.ca Calendar of Events section.

The Dalhousie Faculty Agriculture Extended Learning offers a variety of courses that may be of interest to beginning farmers online and in class. These courses include the Modern Shepherd, Livestock Medicine, the Modern Beekeeper and a number of courses on organic farming. For more information, contact the Extended Learning Program 902-893-6600 or view their website: www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/programs.html

For hands-on training experience, you may be interested in the SOIL apprenticeship program, where you learn skills on-farm being mentored by an experienced farmer. For more information, see www.soilapprenticeships.org or call the Atlantic Canada Organic Regional Network, which coordinates the program in the Maritimes 1-866-322-2676.

For a comprehensive directory of agricultural training opportunities across Canada, see www.agritalent.ca or call the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council 1-866-430-7457.

Step 7: Getting ready to farm: memberships, licenses, and regulations

Farm Registration

The *Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Act* provides stable funding for general farm organizations on Prince Edward Island. The two farm organizations that qualify according to the Act are the National Farmers Union and the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture. This funding allows organizations to provide services and opportunities to their members. The registration fee is based on the farm business annual gross income for the year immediately preceding. The farmer designates the farm organization to which the registration fee is to be allocated.

Note: Farmers should register for the first time after they have begun to earn income from their farm, rather than immediately after purchasing a farm. For more information, contact the Registrar of Farms at 902-368-4145 or 1-866-PEIFARM (734-3276)

Bona Fide Farmer Status

Pursuant to the *Real Property Assessment Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1998, the Bona Fide Farmer Status program provides tax relief to bona fide farmers by providing a reduced farm assessment on land used in the farm enterprise.

You may apply for bona fide farmer status if you are:

- an individual who owns a farm and is (1) actively engaged in farming, and (2) earns *at least $10,000 or 25%* of your gross annual income from farming
- a partnership or corporation that owns a farm and is (1) registered in the province and (2) actively engaged in farming and (3) earns *at least $10,000 or 25%* of its gross annual income from farming
- an individual, partnership, or corporation that owns a farm and is registered in the Future Farmer Program

If you are interested in this program, you may also wish to apply for a Marked Gasoline and Marked Diesel Oil Permit.

For more information about these programs contact the PEI Department of Finance, Taxation and Property Records at 902-368-4070 or taxandland@gov.pe.ca

Business Number

Along with a Bona Fide Farmer Status, you may also wish to have a business number. A business number is a numbering system that simplifies and streamlines

business' dealings with the federal government. A business number is required if you intend to export any products and hire employees.
If you are considering registering a business, you should give careful consideration to a few issues. Registering for HST depends on the nature of your business and its sales. You need to consider the advantage of registering, such as the ability to claim HST back on business start up expenses. Opening an import/export tax account should be done in planning the import/export part of your business to avoid delays at the point of entry. It is important to ensure that the payroll deduction accounts are opened before you are required to file employee deductions.
For more information on business registration contact the Canada Revenue Agency by calling 1-800-959-5525 (toll-free) or visit www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bn

Licences/Permits

Pesticide Applicator

To apply non-domestic agricultural pesticides on PEI you need a Pesticide Applicator Certificate. An individual seeking first-time certification or re-certification must write an exam and receive a mark of not less than 75%. A five-year Pesticide Applicator Certificate will be issued to successful individuals. A photo ID is required at the time of examination. A self-study training manual is available for individuals wishing to prepare for the exam. The Department offers a one day training course annually during the winter/spring. A copy of the manual can be viewed online in PDF format www.gov.pe.ca/environment/pesticides
For more information on Pesticide Applicator Certificate contact the PEI Department of Communities, Land & Environment, Pesticide Management Program Specialist, Thane Clarke 902-368-5599 or ktclarke@gov.pe.ca

Specific Licenses

Depending on the commodity you become involved with other specific licenses/permits may be required, **for example**:

- Beekeeper and Apiary Registration
- Honey Bee Import Permit
- Game Farm License
- Meat Slaughtering and Processing License
- Dairy Processor License
- Milk Producer License
- Food Establishment Permit
- Peddlers license

- Swine Importation Permit

Information for licenses and permits can be obtained from the Agriculture Information Desk. Some of these licenses and permits will be issued from other Provincial Departments or relevant producer organizations.

Regulations

In addition to the various licenses, there are a number of other provincial and municipal regulations that apply to Prince Edward Island farmers. These include regulations related to:

- food safety
- the potential environmental impacts of farming (pesticide use, manure management, nutrient management, soil erosion)
- farm animal welfare
- stray livestock
- land zoning
- building permits

Watercourse and Wetland Protection Regulations

A **watercourse** is any stream, creek, pond, river, bay or coastal water body, whether it contains water or not. A **wetland** is an area of water-tolerant vegetation including marshes, swamps, bogs and meadows.

For watercourses and wetlands you need a permit from Environment to:

- alter any features or disturb the ground
- dump or remove any material or objects of any kind
- build, repair or remove structures or obstructions of any kind
- operate vehicles or equipment – except for launching a boat or the legal harvesting of a fishery resource
- alter or destroy vegetation, including cutting live trees and shrubs – except in a wooded swamp
- carry out stream enhancement activities

Buffer Zone

A 15 metre wide buffer zone is required along all watercourses and wetlands. For freshwater streams, buffer zones are measured from the edge of the sediment. Tidal areas include the salt water part of rivers, bays and the outer coastline. For wetlands, buffer zones are measured from the edge of the wetland vegetation.

In a buffer zone you need a permit from Environment to:

- alter or disturb the ground or soil

- dump any material or objects of any kind
- remove soil or rocks
- build, repair or remove structures or obstructions of any kind
- operate vehicles or non-agricultural equipment
- cut down live trees and shrubs

You **may not** grow agricultural crops or use pesticides in a buffer zone except those next to wetlands that are completely shrub swamps, bogs, wooded swamps, seasonally flooded flats, meadows or landlocked ponds.

You **may** prune trees and shrubs in buffer zones as long as you follow the above rules. You may also plant grass, trees and shrubs in buffer zone if you use hand tools. You may also cut the grass in a buffer zone. A buffer zone can be used to turn agricultural equipment.

Grass Headlands

If you grow row crops such as potatoes, all rows that terminate within 200 metres of a watercourse or wetland must end with 10 metres of grass that was established before the year the row crop is grown or at the edge of the buffer zone.

Note for Livestock Producers

If you have an intensive livestock operation, you must also follow all the rules mentioned, and in addition you may **not:**

- allow any livestock waste to enter any watercourse or wetland
- build or expand any intensive livestock operation within 90 metres of any watercourse or wetland without authorization from the Department of Communities, Land and Environment.

For more information on the Water Course, Buffer Zone or Grass Headland Regulations contact, Agriculture Soil Conservation Specialist, Gwen Vessey 902-314-0786 or gtvessey@gov.pe.ca.

Burning Permit

Fire season runs from March 15 to November 30 each year and during this period, people must have a valid Burning Permit for all outdoor fires. However, many Island municipalities also have their own fire regulations so people must also check with their local fire department or municipal government for the regulations and restrictions which apply in their area before starting any fire.

Burning Permits are available free of charge and can be obtained by contacting a Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division office in Charlottetown 902-368-4800, Wellington 902-854-7260, or Southampton 902-961-7296.

Appendix 1: Contact Information

PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

For information please call 1-866-PEIFARM (734-3276), 902-368-4145 or visit www.peifarm.ca

Information Section

Danny Doyle	Ag. Officer	dldoyle@gov.pe.ca
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Will Proctor	Ag. Officer	waproctor@gov.pe.ca
Carolyn Wood	Ag. Officer	cjwood@gov.pe.ca

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George Piercey	Environmental Tech.	gapiercey@gov.pe.ca
Kyra Stiles	Nutrient Management	kstiles@gov.pe.ca
Gwen Vessey	Soil and Water	gtvessey@gov.pe.ca
DannyWalker	Agriculture Tech.	dmwalker@gov.pe.ca
Tyler Wright	Soil and Water	tmwright@gov.pe.ca

General Farm Organizations

Atlantic Canada Organic Regional Network
PO Box 6343 Sackville NB E4L 1G6
tel: 1-506-536-2867, 1-866-32ACORN (toll-free), fax: 1-506- 536-0221
e-mail: admin@acornorganics.org, website: www.acornorganic.org

PEI Certified Organic Producers Cooperative
420 University Ave. Charlottetown PE
C1A 7Z5, tel: 902-894-9999, fax: 902-894-9799,
e-mail: email@organicpei.com

PEI Federation of Agriculture
Robert Godfrey (Executive Director) 420 University Ave. Charlottetown PE
C1A 7Z5 tel: 902-368-7289, e-mail: rgodfrey@peifa.ca website: www.peifa.ca

PEI National Farmers Union
Edith Ling (Womans Director) 239 Ling Rd. North Winsloe PE
C1E 2T2 tel: 902-368-1262, website: www.nfu.ca

PEI Soil & Crop Improvement Association
Tyler Wright (Manager) PO Box 21012 Charlottetown PE C1A 9H6
tel: 902-887-2535, e-mail: wright.tj@pei.sympatico.ca

PEI Young Farmer's Association
Jeremy Stead (President) 420 University Ave. Charlottetown PE
C1A 7Z5 tel: 902-394-0696, e-mail: president@peiyoungfarmers.com

PEI Agriculture Sector Council
Laurie Loane (Executive Director) 420 University Ave. Charlottetown PE
C1A 7Z5 tel: 902-892-1091, e-mail: laurie@peiagsc.ca, website: www.peiagsc.ca

Commodity Organizations

Chicken Farmers of PEI
Janet Hillard-Murphy (Manager) 4701 Baldwin's Rd. Cardigan PE C0A 1G0
tel: 902-218-1872, e-mail: peipoultry@pei.sympatico.ca

Dairy Farmers of PEI
Doug Thompson (Manager) PO Box 35, 420 University Ave. Charlottetown PE
C1A 7Z5 tel: 902-892-5331, e-mail: dthompson@dfpei.pe.ca ,website:
www.dfpei.pe.ca

Egg Producers of Prince Edward Island
Mike Cummiskey (Manager) 420 University Ave. Charlottetown PE C1A 7Z5, tel: 902- 892-8401, e-mail: mcummiskey@dfpei.pe.ca

PEI Beekeepers Association
Sean Murray (President) 3178 Savage Harbour Rd. Mount Stewart PE C0A 1T0 tel: 902-628-7955, e-mail: theseanmurray@gmail.com

PEI Cattle Producers
Rinnie Bradley (Manager) 420 University Ave. Charlottetown PE C1A 7N5 tel: 902-368-2229, e-mail: cattlemen@eastlink.ca

PEI Fur Breeders' Association
Peter Peters (President) 1767 Annandale Rd. Souris PE C0A 2B0 tel: 902-687-3601

PEI Horticultural Association
Joanne Driscoll (Manager) PO Box 1887 Charlottetown PE C1A 8B9 tel: 902-566-2733, fax: 902-566-5637, e-mail: peihort@isn.net

PEI Hog Commodity Marketing Board
Tim Seeber (Manager) 420 University Ave. Charlottetown PE C1A 7Z5 tel: 902-892-4201, fax: 902-892-4203, e-mail: seebertw@eastlink.ca

PEI Potato Board
Greg Donald (General Manager) 90 Hillstrom Ave. Charlottetown PE C1E 2C6 tel: 902-892-6551, website: www.peipotato.org

PEI Sheep Breeders' Association
Ryk terBeek (President) 716 Kentyre Rd. North Winsloe PE C1E 2S7 tel: 902-628-6691, e-mail: rykterbeek@rogers.com

PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association
JoAnne Pineau (Administrative Assistant) 420 University Ave. Suite 110 Charlottetown PE C1A 7Z5 tel: 902-368-7289, e-mail: joann@peifa.ca

Appendix 2: Commodity Profiles

General Considerations for Livestock Farms

Issues that apply to most livestock farms, including selling meat and animal welfare are outlined below. Commodity-specific information can be found in the pages following.

Meat sold on Prince Edward Island must be slaughtered, cut and wrapped at either a provincially-inspected abattoir or a federally-inspected abattoir. Meat produced on Prince Edward Island, but sold outside the province, must be slaughtered, cut, and wrapped at a federally-inspected abattoir. There are six provincially-inspected abattoirs on Prince Edward Island. There is one federally-inspected abattoir in the province, Atlantic Beef Products, located in Albany. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has recommended codes of practice for the care and handling of farm animals. Information regarding these codes of practice can be found on the CFIA website www.inspection.gc.ca

Premises Identification Program (PID) for Livestock and Poultry

Premises identification is a way of linking livestock and poultry to a geographic location to assist in responding to emergencies that threaten animal or public health. A premise is considered to be identified when the following information is complete, accurate and current:

- Legal land description (parcel number)
- Land owner/Emergency contact information
- Premises type (e.g. farm, assembly yard, abattoir, etc)
- Animal type (e.g. list of all types of livestock and poultry on the premises)
- Maximum animal capacity (e.g. maximum number of beef cattle that can be housed on the premises)

The *Premises Identification Regulations*, under the *Animal Health and Protection Act*, requires that all livestock and poultry premise owners register their locations. For more information about the Premises Identification Program contact the Agriculture Information Officer 902-368-4145 or the PID website www.gov.pe.ca/agriculture/PID .

Want to know more? Some good general references on raising livestock are:
Macey, Anne. 2004. *Organic Livestock Handbook*. Knowlesville, NS: Canadian Organic Growers.

Also, Storey Publishing, based in Massachusetts, has a series of guides on raising different livestock species, both major and minor. For more information, see the website: www.storey.com

Dairy Farming

What do you need to produce cow's milk and/or other dairy products for sale.

- A license from Dairy Farmers of Prince Edward Island to produce and sell
- Dairy cattle and young replacement stock
- An appropriate barn of sufficient size to house the total number of cattle
- Land for pasturing and producing grain and forage (unless grain and forage will be exclusively purchased)
- Access to storage structures and equipment for producing and storing sufficient grain and forage to meet the cattle's nutritional requirements throughout the year
- A manure storage area with sufficient capacity for at least seven months and which meets PEI environmental regulations preventing surface water and ground water contamination
- Approved milking equipment including a bulk storage tank

There are approximately 170 dairy farms in the province with milking herds ranging in size from 15 to 500. Dairy farming is currently one of the most stable and profitable farm commodities on Prince Edward Island due to the supply management system. However, it can be difficult for new farmers to enter the industry because the price of quota currently sells for $24,000 per kg. The infrastructure and equipment investment costs are also higher for dairy farmers than for other types of less intensive farms. Dairy Farmers of Prince Edward Island (DFPEI) has developed a New Entrant Program designed to assist one successful applicant each year with a quota loan. The details of this program are available from DFPEI (see the Appendix 1 for contact details).

Farms can process their own milk into cheese, yogurt, and other dairy products, but this requires additional licenses and processing facilities that meet the provincial Department of Health and Wellness regulations and food safety standards. Milk processed on farm is subject to a transportation levy even though it does not leave the farm.

Dairy cattle can be kept to produce milk or other dairy products for personal consumption but these milk and dairy products cannot be sold or given away by anyone.

Want to know more?
Contact Fred VanderKloet, Dairy Specialist, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: (902) 314-0824 or fsvanderkloet@gov.pe.ca
For more information on dairy production, quota, the New Entrant Program, contact the Dairy Farmers of Prince Edward Island 902-892-5331

Resource Materials:
www.Hoards.com
If you think milking your own cows would not be feasible but are still interested in dairy, think about dairy goats or sheep. Goat and sheep milk are not supply managed and no quota is required. (See the sections on sheep and goat.)

Poultry Farming

What do you need to be a poultry farmer on Prince Edward Island.

- For conventional layer chickens, quota and a license issued by Egg Producers of Prince Edward Island (EPPEI)
- No license is required to keep up to 299 hens. You can produce eggs for your own consumption or to sell eggs directly to consumers; however, if the eggs are sold anywhere but at the farm (including farmers' markets), they must be inspected at a federally inspected and registered egg-grading station.
- No license is required to keep 500 meat birds per year
- For conventional poultry, an all-weather, biosecure barn
- For free-range poultry, a coop that provides protection from the elements and protection from predators
- A source of feed and water
- A source of chicks or pullets
- An identified processor (for chickens and turkeys) or identified markets (for eggs)

There are currently seven registered egg producers located throughout the province, with an average of more than 19,300 layers per farm. The provincial egg quota is currently all issued to registered egg producers. Egg quota can be obtained through a private arrangement with a current quota holder, subject to approval by EPPEI or through a provincial quota exchange when a producer decides to sell his /her quota.

Conventional poultry barns are expensive to buy or build, but the supply management system makes the investment fairly secure. The poultry industry is highly regulated and prospective poultry producers should contact the appropriate commodity association for a complete list of regulations (see Appendix 1 for contact details).

There are no regulations governing the production of other types of poultry, such as turkeys, ducks and geese, except that they must be killed and dressed at an inspected abattoir (unless they are used only for personal consumption).

Want to know more? See Appendix 1 as part of this document for commodity organization contact information.

Resource Materials:
Damerow, Gail. 2010. *Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens*.3rd Ed. Or Mercia, Leonard S. 2001. *Storey's Guide to Raising Turkeys* www.storey.com

Beef Farming

What do you need to produce beef on Prince Edward Island.

- Decide on the type of operation for example; cow-calf or feeders
- Perimeter fencing
- Approximately 1-2 acres of pasture per cow
- Approximately 2-3 acres of forage land for winter feed
- A way of storing forage for the winter
- A barn or shed to provide shelter for the animals during inclement weather
- Enough clean water for the animals' size and life stage, and the season (larger cattle require more water than smaller ones, lactating cows require more water than non-lactating cows, and all cattle require more water in hot weather than cold weather)
- Handling system to restrain animals of various sizes to administer health products and vaccines
- A market for calves, finished cattle, or beef
- Deadstock management plan (deadstock collection or compost)

The beef industry is comprised of two main sectors; cow-calf operations where calves are raised to the feeder stage and beef feedlots that purchase the feeders to finish for market. The price of finished beef cattle fluctuates on a regular basis. Many commercial producers of beef cattle on Prince Edward Island are expanding their operation because feeder calf prices have increased. A number of producers have carved out niche markets, selling directly to restaurants and consumers. The beef industry is not heavily regulated and the initial investment costs are relatively low in terms of infrastructure and equipment, especially if you are able to hire a custom machine operator to make your hay or silage for winter feed.

Want to know more?
Contact Dr. Les Halliday, Beef Development Officer, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902- 314-0827 or ljhalliday@gov.pe.ca

Resource Materials:
www.foragebeef.ca
Atlantic Beef and Sheep www.countrymagazines.com
Stockman Grass Farmer www.stockmangrassfarmer.net or 1-800-748-9808 (free sample issue available on request)

Swine Farming

What do you need to be a swine farmer on Prince Edward Island.

- Pigs - your own breeding stock or a source of weaned piglets
- A barn large enough for the number of pigs you have
- A source of feed and water
- A land base large enough to dispose of the manure produced by the pigs in an environmentally responsible manner that complies with Prince Edward Island's environmental regulations

Individual swine producers have access to different market opportunities for their hogs, and should contact the PEI Hog Commodity Marketing Board to discuss their options. A number of swine farmers have developed niche markets for their meat products, including sausage and bacon. Processed pork products must be made in a licensed processing facility that meets provincial food safety regulations. Producers or individuals wishing to import live hogs must first obtain a Swine Importation Permit. Details on this can be obtained by contacting the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Want to know more?
Contact Lynda MacSwain, Manager Agriculture Innovation, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902-368-4815 or lemacswain@gov.pe.ca

Resource Material:
Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. 2001. *Hogs Your Way: Choosing a Hog Production System in the Upper Midwest.* University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Sheep Farming

What do you need to be a sheep farmer on Prince Edward Island.

- Sheep - a breed specific for the production purpose
- Approximately 1/5 acre of pasture per sheep
- A way of storing forage and feed for the winter (½ t. of hay and 120 lbs of grain per ewe)
- A barn or shed to provide shelter for the animals during inclement weather (a draft-free barn is needed for winter lambing)
- A means of providing the sheep with around eight litres of clean drinking water per sheep per day
- Fences to keep the sheep from roaming and to protect them from predators; additional predator protection may be required
- A market for lambs, mutton, or breeding stock (rams and ewes) and a market for wool

The sheep industry on Prince Edward Island has experienced significant growth in recent years as consumers rediscover a taste for lamb and immigrants to Prince Edward Island seek out lamb and mutton. Prince Edward Island is an excellent place for raising sheep and the required investment in infrastructure and equipment is relatively low. Many sheep farmers in the province sell lamb to slaughter plants in Nova Scotia and Ontario or directly to consumers at one of the provinces many farmers' markets. Sheep farmers have the option of shearing their own sheep or custom sheep shearers are available for hire in the province.

Want to know more?
Contact Dr. Les Halliday, Beef Development Officer, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902-314-0827 or ljhalliday@gov.pe.ca

Resource Materials:

Storey Publishing. 2006. *Storey's Barn Guide to Sheep.*
Simmons,Paula and Ekarius,Carol. 2009. *Storey's Guide to Raising Sheep 4th Edition.*
Canadian Sheep Federation. 2010. *Virtual Toolbox for New Sheep Producers.* www.cansheep.ca/cms/en/Resources/VTBox/VTBox.aspx

Goat Farming

What do you need to be a goat farmer on Prince Edward Island.

- Goats - a breed specific for the production purpose
- Approximately 1/5 acre of pasture per goat
- A way of storing forage for the winter
- A barn or shed to provide shelter for the animals during inclement weather
- A means of providing the goats with around eight litres of clean drinking water per goat per day
- A market for goat meat, goat milk and other dairy products, and/or goat fiber
- If processing goat's milk into cheese or other dairy products, a milk processor's licence must be obtained from the Prince Edward Island Department of Health and Wellness

Goats are enjoyable animals, easy to handle and transport, and relatively inexpensive to purchase, feed, and house. Because goat's milk is not supply managed, it is less costly to start a commercial goat dairy farm than a cow dairy farm. Dairy goat production, especially pasture-based production, offers the opportunity for sustainable diversity on a small farm (Coffey *et al.*, 2004).

Want to know more?
Contact Fred VanderKloet, Dairy Specialist, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902- 314-0824 or fsvanderkloet@gov.pe.ca

Resource Materials:
Sayer, Maggie, 2010. *Storey's Guide to Raising Meat Goats.*
Belanger, Jerry and Thomson Bredesen, Sara, 2010. *Storey's Guide to Raising Dairy Goats* www.storey.com
Smith, Cheryl K., 2010. *Raising Goats for Dummies.* www.dummies.com

Potato Farming

What do you need to be a potato farmer on Prince Edward Island.

- Availability of crop land, the amount of land is dependent on type of potato farming for example a high end potato seed market verses a processing potato market and the requirements of the *Agricultural Crop Rotation Act*
- Labour available for planting, harvest, and grading
- A building for example a warehouse for storage
- Access to land preparation, seeding, pest control, and harvesting equipment
- A market

Prince Edward Island is a great place to grow potatoes. We currently grow the largest acreage of any province in Canada. Our fertile, sandy soils are ideally suited to growing potatoes. There are many things to consider before you begin growing potatoes such as the type of potatoes and the market. The three main markets to sell potatoes are; seed, table and processing. All three markets have different production requirements. Time must be taken to learn about the three sectors before starting to grow potatoes.

Setting up a commercial potato business can be very expensive. Specialized equipment for planting, hilling and harvesting are required, along with a warehouse for storage. Also access to quality land is essential and not available in all areas of Prince Edward Island. Using quality seed potatoes is of the utmost importance to ensure a quality crop and a requirement under the *Plant Health Act*. Potato plants are targeted by a number of pests and diseases, so care must be taken when growing the crop to ensure that it remains healthy.

Want to know more?
Contact Brian Beaton, Potato Industry Coordinator, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902-314-1607 or bwbeaton@gov.pe.ca

Resource Material:
Refer to the "IPM Manual for PEI Potato Production" for an in depth review of managing the potato crop on PEI. It is available on line at www.peifarm.ca.

Tree Fruit Farming

What do you need to be a tree fruit farmer on Prince Edward Island.

- An existing orchard or suitable land and location that lends itself to tree fruit production
- Cultivars that are suited to the local climate and are marketable
- An understanding of disease and insect control
- Labour available at harvest
- A packer or retailer that is willing to broker your fruit or the desire to market your product through a u-pick operation

The commercial tree fruit industry on Prince Edward Island is concentrated in the Malpeque Bay and Cardigan Bay regions of the Island because of the suitable climate, soils and infrastructure support. However, recent developments have taken place in the southern kings region near Montague.

The main tree fruit produced on Prince Edward Island is apples, with annual production near 1.2 million pound. There is limited production of peaches, cherries, and plums because of winter hardiness and disease issues. Given the right location and cultivar selections, there is an opportunity for expansion in these crops. The majority of the apple crop is sold locally through u-pick, farm markets, farmers' markets and retailers. The availability of labour is always of concern for producers, especially at harvest time. The crop must be harvested at the correct time to maintain optimum quality. To alleviate the harvest labour problem, some growers are now using migrant farm labour.

Tree fruit production, like many agriculture enterprises, is very competitive, requiring producers to obtain high yields of high quality fruit. Potential orchards or orchard sites should be thoroughly investigated prior to entering tree fruit production.

Want to know more?
Contact Chris Jordan, Berry Crop Development Officer, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902-314-0816 or cwjordan@gov.pe.ca

Small Fruit Farming

What do you need to grow small fruits on Prince Edward Island.

- The appropriate land for your crop
- Specialized equipment
- Planting stock (except for wild lowbush blueberries)
- Labour available at harvest time
- A market

The four main small fruit crops produced on Prince Edward Island are wild lowbush blueberries, strawberries, cranberries, and raspberries. There is also some interest in the commercial production and/or wild harvesting of berry species with high nutrient content such as blue honeysuckle (haskap), black currants, and rosehips.

Each small fruit species has different soil and land requirements and generally are not widely adapted. For example wild lowbush blueberries are not planted; rather wild stands are encouraged to grow. Therefore, if wild rootstocks are not already present, land cannot be developed for wild blueberries. Meanwhile, cranberries are mainly grown in highly-engineered bogs with ditches and dykes designed to control the water table and with irrigation systems used to meet the water needs of the crop and for frost protection. Berry crops generally prefer well-drained soils with a high sand content. Blueberries (both lowbush and highbush) and cranberries require a low soil pH (4.0 - 5.5) whereas strawberries and raspberries require a higher soil pH (5.5 - 6.5).

Other considerations for small fruit production are labour at harvest and access to markets. Most of the small fruit produced on Prince Edward Island with the exception of wild lowbush blueberries and cranberries are sold fresh to local consumers. Each year, more than 20 million pounds of wild lowbush blueberries are sold off Island for processing.

Want to know more?
Contact Chris Jordan, Berry Crop Development Officer, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902-314-0816 or cwjordan@gov.pe.ca

Resource Materials:
Perennia has a number of informative factsheets on small fruit production, available at: perennia.ca/fruit.php

Vegetable Farming

What do you need to be a vegetable farmer on Prince Edward Island.

- Availability of crop land, the amount of land is dependent on type of vegetable farming for example a large scale farming verses a market garden
- Quality seed or transplants
- Labour available for planting, weeding and at harvest time
- Access to land preparation, seeding, pest control, harvesting equipment and possible a transplanting greenhouse
- A market

Despite a relatively short growing season, Prince Edward Island is a great place to grow most vegetables. Vegetable farmers are among the most diverse in the province. There are a number of large-scale farmers that sell to processors and wholesalers. In addition, there are a large number of small-scale farmers, who farm only one or two acres and sell directly to consumers through farmers' markets, roadside stands, farm markets, u-picks, and through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Small-scale vegetable farming is one of the easiest types of farming for new farmers to get started in because:

- the initial investment costs can be low (except for heated greenhouses)
- the return on investment per unit of land area and per hour of labour is relatively high
- it is easy to start small and gradually expand as a customer base develops

Want to know more?
Contact Susan MacKinnon, Organic Development Officer, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902-314-0825 or sdmackinnon@gov.pe.ca

Resource Materials:
Coleman, Eliot. 1995. *The New Organic Grower: A Master's Manual of Tools and Techniques for the Home and Market Gardener*. 2nd ed.
Grubinger, Vernon. 1999. *Sustainable Vegetable Production from Start-Up to Market*. Ithaca, NY: Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service Cooperative Extension.

Perennia has a number of informative factsheets on vegetable production, available at: perennia.ca/vegetables.php

Field Crop Farming

What do you need to be a cereal/oilseed farmer on Prince Edward Island.

- Arable land with minimal production limitations due to drainage, slope, climate, pests, and adverse soil properties
- Access to top quality genetic material such as certified seed
- Access to land preparation, seeding, pest control, harvesting, and grain handling equipment, through ownership, rental, or hire of custom operators
- A plan for producing and marketing grain crops

Historically cereals were produced on Prince Edward Island for livestock feed, either for use on-farm or for sale to other farms on the Island or in Atlantic Canada. In recent years, grains produced as cash crops have been playing an increasingly important role in farm profitability. Other field crops include soybeans for both crushing and export to human consumption markets, milling wheat, grain corn, specialty oilseeds, organic feed and food grains, and certified seed.
When grown in rotation with potatoes, annual grains provide an opportunity to break disease and insect pest cycles and to improve soil quality. Grain production often requires substantial investment in both land and equipment, but it can be started with less capital using leased land and custom farming operators for a portion of the field work.

Want to know more?
Contact Dan MacEachern, Field Crop Development Officer, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902-314-0233 or danmaceachern@gov.pe.ca

Resource Materials:
Agronomy Guide for Field Crops. Ontario Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Publication 811.
www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub811/p811toc.html
Organic Field Crop Handbook. 2nd ed. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Organic Growers.
www.cog.ca/our-services/publications/organic-field-crop-handbook

Wine Grapes

What do you need to produce wine on Prince Edward Island?

- Deep, well-drained land with a south-facing slope in a sheltered location
- Vines of grape cultivars that are in demand on the market and suited to your site
- Vine trellises
- A market with one of the province's existing grape wineries or winemaking facilities of your own

The wine industry on Prince Edward Island is expanding as Atlantic Canadian vintners build a reputation for winning national and international awards. There is potential for expansion in the industry; therefore opportunities exist for new wine grape growers in the province. Wine grape production is a highly specialized industry and it is imperative that growers who are unfamiliar with vineyards do thorough research on the production and marketing of wine grapes before making any business decisions.

Want to know more?
Contact Chris Jordan, Berry Crop Development Officer, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902-314-0816 or cwjordan@gov.pe.ca

Resource Materials:
Perennia has a number of informative factsheets on fruit production, available at: perennia.ca/fruit.php

Naugler, Christopher T., Bruce Wright, and Robert Murray. 2004. *The Tangled Vine: Winegrowing in Nova Scotia*. Bridgewater, NS: Blue Frog.
Naugler, Christopher T. and Bruce Wright 2006. *Wamboldt's Nova Scotia Winegrower's Guide 2006 Edition*. Bridgewater, NS: Blue Frog.

Honey Beekeeping

What do you need to keep honey bees on Prince Edward Island?

- Bee Health Certificate
- Bees and hives (a honey bee import permit is required if bees are to be obtained from outside the province)
- Protective clothing
- Access to land with flowering plants suitable for bees
- Market for honey and beeswax and/or a market for bee pollination services

To keep honey bees on Prince Edward Island at a small, hobby or sideline level requires a relatively small investment and is an excellent way to start to gain experience and knowledge. Many of today's larger beekeepers started small and expanded over time to a commercial scale. Many land owners are willing to have beehives located on their property. There may be no requirement to own land. On Prince Edward Island, the business of beekeeping is both a production and a service-based industry. The Prince Edward Island beekeeping sector generates over $1 million annually from pollination services and the sale of honey, beeswax, and bees. There are 45 beekeepers on Prince Edward Island operating a total of about 6,000 colonies. Honey bees provide critical and essential pollination services to the horticulture sector. On Prince Edward Island, the pollination of berry crops and tree fruits are very dependent on honey bees. In 2015, over 11,000 colonies were required for lowbush blueberry pollination alone. Continued development of the blueberry, cranberry and tree fruit industries on Prince Edward Island will create greater demand for hives for pollination purposes.

Want to know more?
Contact Chris Jordan, Provincial Apiarist, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902-314-0816 or cwjordan@gov.pe.ca
Training opportunities:
The Modern Beekeeper offered by Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture Extended Learning: 1-902-836-6600 or www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning/programs-courses/learn2farm/the-modern-beekeeper.html

Resource Materials:
Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists: www.capabees.com
Canadian Honey Council: www.honeycouncil.ca
Countryfields Beekeeping Supplies: www.countryfields.ca

Fur Farming (Mink)

What do you need to be a fur farmer on Prince Edward Island?

- A site that meets the setback requirements found in the provincial *Manure Management Guidelines*
- Pens and cages built in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Mink*
- Breeding stock
- A source of feed and water
- An arrangement with a pelting facility to process the pelts and an arrangement with a fur auction house to sell the pelts or a private contract with a pelt buyer

There are less than 10 mink operations on Prince Edward Island. The mink industry's services have become more centralized in recent years making the raising of mink easier for new producers. There are central feed kitchens that produce feed for sale to local producers. Aleutian Disease (AD) testing helps manage AD on ranches. Custom pelting for Island producers can be sourced in other areas such as in Nova Scotia. Preventing and/or managing AD is vital for mink production. All estimates indicate that there is still room for more expansion within this vibrant sector.

Want to know more?
Contact Lynda MacSwain, Manager Agriculture Innovation, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 902-368-4815 or lemacswain@gov.pe.ca

Resource Materials:
Nova Scotia Mink Breeders. 2002. *Aleutian Disease Task Force Report and Recommendations.*
Agriculture Canada. 1988. *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Mink.* Agriculture Canada Publication 1819E.